



TO SERVE PATIENTS BEST...

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**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA VETERANS
NEED AND DESERVE
A CENTRALLY-LOCATED
VETERANS ADMINISTRATION HOSPITAL**

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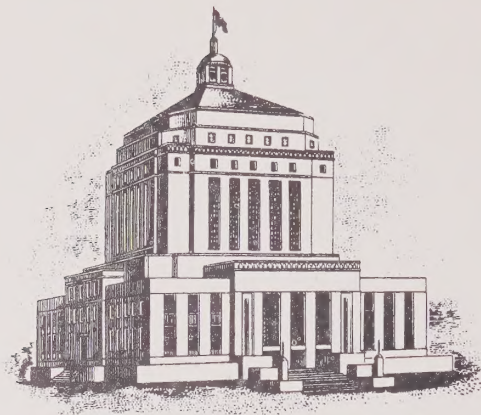
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*Veterans -- Medical care -- California, Northern
Hospitals, Military -- California -- Oakland*

ALAMEDA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Francis Dunn, Chairman

Kent D. Pursel

Emanuel P. Razeto

Chester E. Stanley

Leland W. Sweeney

Earl Strathman, Administrator

7804523

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
RESOLUTION NO. 92775

WHEREAS, this body adopted a position on September 20, 1956 opposing the Veterans' Administration's proposal to relocate the Oakland VA Hospital near Martinez; and

WHEREAS, it appears from press releases that the Appropriations Committee of the House of Representatives will be conducting hearings on the Veterans' Administration's proposal to relocate the Oakland VA Hospital near Martinez; and

WHEREAS, the only objection, namely dispersal, which in 1956 prevented the retention of the VA Hospital in the Oakland area, has since been removed by the Federal Civilian Defense Administration; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Martinez site is far removed from the area from which adequate personnel and staff can be obtained and in which a majority of the patients and their families reside and would therefore result in a financial and time-consuming hardship upon them; and

WHEREAS, there are far more professional and technical medical personnel available in Alameda County than at the proposed site and a wider variety of medical skills, in greater abundance, would be more readily and frequently available to the veteran patient if the hospital remains in the Metropolitan Area; and

WHEREAS, Dr. David F. Dugan, speaking on behalf of the Alameda-Contra Costa Medical Association, said the Martinez move would cut the number of medical consultants by 50% and would mean fewer skilled physicians and surgeons available to the veterans; and

WHEREAS, a survey of patients in the Oakland VA Hospital in January, 1960 showed that 41% of the veterans come from Alameda County and only 9% from Contra Costa County; and

WHEREAS, various veterans' organizations who will be served by the facility have been outspokenly opposed to the proposal arguing that the Martinez site is too far removed from the population center of the area to be of service and too far away from other medical institutions which will be associated with new hospitals and have strenuously urged the location of the hospital in Alameda County; and

WHEREAS, there are several locations in Alameda County ideally situated for such an establishment with reference to transportation, access by both patients and personnel, and availability of all utilities, at least one of which sites is already owned by the Veterans' Administration; and

WHEREAS, a hospital located in an area removed from the sound and odors and traffic of an industrially zoned area including several large oil refineries, ammunition centers, shipyards, depots, and arsenals is more conducive to a rapid return to health; and

WHEREAS, the reconsideration of the proposed hospital in Martinez will not adversely affect the present veteran population served by the greater number of beds in the present Oakland hospital;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND REAFFIRMED that for the reasons hereinabove set forth, this Board of Supervisors hereby urgently requests the Veterans' Administration and the Appropriations Committee of the House of Representatives to reconsider their decision to locate said hospital in the vicinity of the City of Martinez and that a reconsideration be given to a proposed site in Alameda County.

I CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS A CORRECT COPY OF
A RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS,
ALAMEDA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA; MARCH 8, 1960.
ATTEST: MARCH 8, 1960 - JACK G. BLUE, COUNTY CLERK

TO SERVE PATIENTS BEST...

The decision to relocate the present Oakland VA Hospital to a site near Martinez should be re-examined and reconsidered, in the light of the very reasons for which hospitals are established—NEED!

The welfare of the veteran patients it is intended to serve is not merely the prime consideration in the locating of a VA Hospital—it should be the **ONLY** consideration!

Availability of highest-quality medical care, accessibility for outstanding medical consultants, accessibility for patients and experienced staff personnel — these are the vital factors in the establishment of a general medical and surgical facility, such as this.

The preponderance of qualified opinion expressed in the area served by the Oakland VA Hospital has been sharply critical of the proposed Martinez site, as failing to meet the well-established criteria for patient welfare.

These qualified spokesmen have, for a number of years, strongly urged retention of the facility within the metropolitan area of Alameda County — an area readily accessible to large medical and technical centers and the University of California medical science facilities.

A spokesman for the Alameda-Contra Costa Counties Medical Association (Martinez is located in Contra Costa County) has pointed out that present medical consultants favor a metropolitan site by an 8 to 1 margin, and that some 50 per cent of these renowned consultants would be unable or unwilling to travel to Martinez.

Veteran population is most heavily concentrated in Alameda County — and is continuing to grow rapidly.

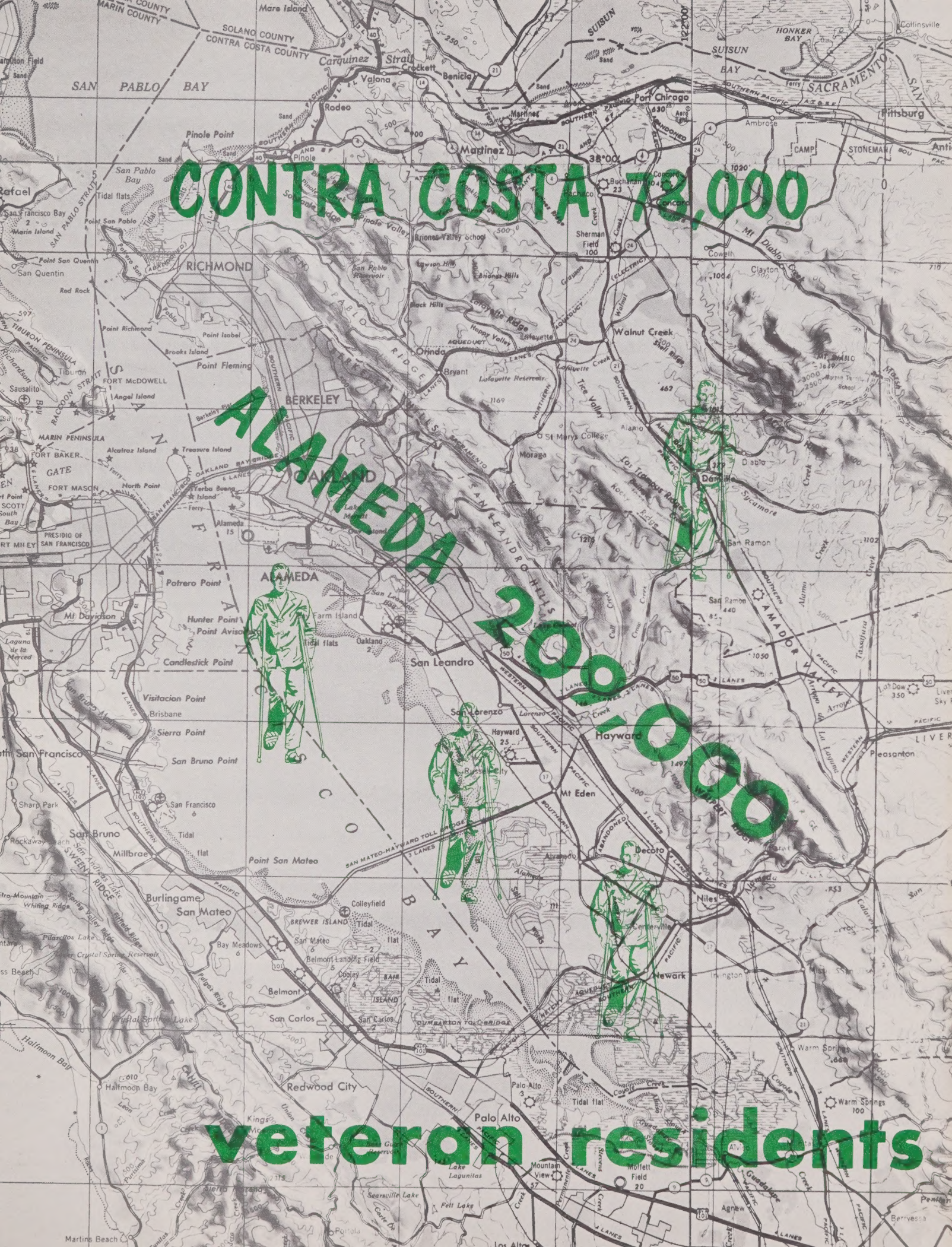
More than 41 per cent of patients at the present facility reside in Alameda County; the vast majority live in areas best served by a metropolitan location. The vast majority of staff personnel reside in Alameda County.

The only available suppliers of necessary goods and services for a VA Hospital are located in the metropolitan area — their serving of the Martinez location would unquestionably be more costly for the taxpayer.

The decision not to build on VA-owned land adjacent to the present Hospital — and subsequent choice of Martinez — was based on a now-outmoded civil defense concept.

The Martinez site was a weak, third-choice compromise which should have been abandoned when the civil defense ruling became invalid. The Martinez project has continued through sheer inertia, unsupported by logic or sound reasoning!

Veterans of the area will be better served by the present Hospital, pending a review of the site for a replacement facility.



CONTRA COSTA 78,000

ALAMEDA 200,000

veteran residents

THE BACKGROUND . . .

Shortly after the Veterans Administration determined to relocate rather than renovate the existing Oakland VA Hospital, it was announced that the facility would be transferred to Palo Alto, far across San Francisco Bay in Santa Clara County. Local veterans' organization leaders fully analyzed the consequences of this decision. With sincere conviction that such a move would not be in the best interests of the veterans of the area served by the present hospital, these veteran leaders requested their representatives in Congress to review the situation with the Veterans Administration. Following this consultation, the Palo Alto proposal was abandoned.

The VA then announced the selection of a site near Moraga, in Contra Costa County. As it was believed that the Moraga site reasonably met the Administration requirements, and was not too great a distance from the Oakland population center, no objection was made by veteran officials. However, the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors and many residents of the Moraga area did object, stating that construction of a VA hospital would lower land values and hinder further development of highly prized residential properties. The VA stated it did not wish to build a hospital where it was not wanted and abandoned the Moraga site, also.

The Board of Supervisors of Alameda County, along with civic and veteran leaders, sought to assist the Veterans Administration by forming committees to investigate and recommend suitable locations. Several available Government-owned sites were suggested, but these were rejected on the grounds of being either too far from medical centers, or within the civil defense dispersal area.

The Veterans Administration announced in September, 1956, that a farm site near Martinez, in Contra Costa County, had been selected. This decision was received with amazement and utter disbelief. The location met few, if any, of the announced criteria for selection of a hospital site: (1) accessibility for patients, (2) availability of staff and medical consultants, (3) safety and protection, and (4) presence of utilities.



MARTINEZ

MORAGA

OAKLAND

PALO ALTO

ACCESSIBILITY FOR PATIENTS

A Veterans Administration Hospital justifies its cost and maintenance if it is located within the area of maximum need and use. Logically, this means the largest concentration of veteran population.

Statistics compiled by the Veterans Affairs Commission in Alameda County clearly show that the concentration of veteran population is centered in Alameda County, completely across the two-county area from the Martinez site:

Alameda County Veteran Population	209,000
Contra Costa County Veteran Population	78,000

Use of the Oakland VA Hospital in recent years, as indicated by residence of patients, forcefully demonstrates the advantages of an Alameda County site.

45.3% of patients live in Alameda County

12% of patients live in adjacent areas South and West

Only 11% of patients live in Contra Costa County

Statistics covering the first 20,000 patients treated at the Oakland VA Hospital showed that 49.03% lived in Alameda County, and that 63.26% of those were residents of the city of Oakland. 14.81% lived in San Francisco, 34.3% in other counties, and 1.79% outside the state.

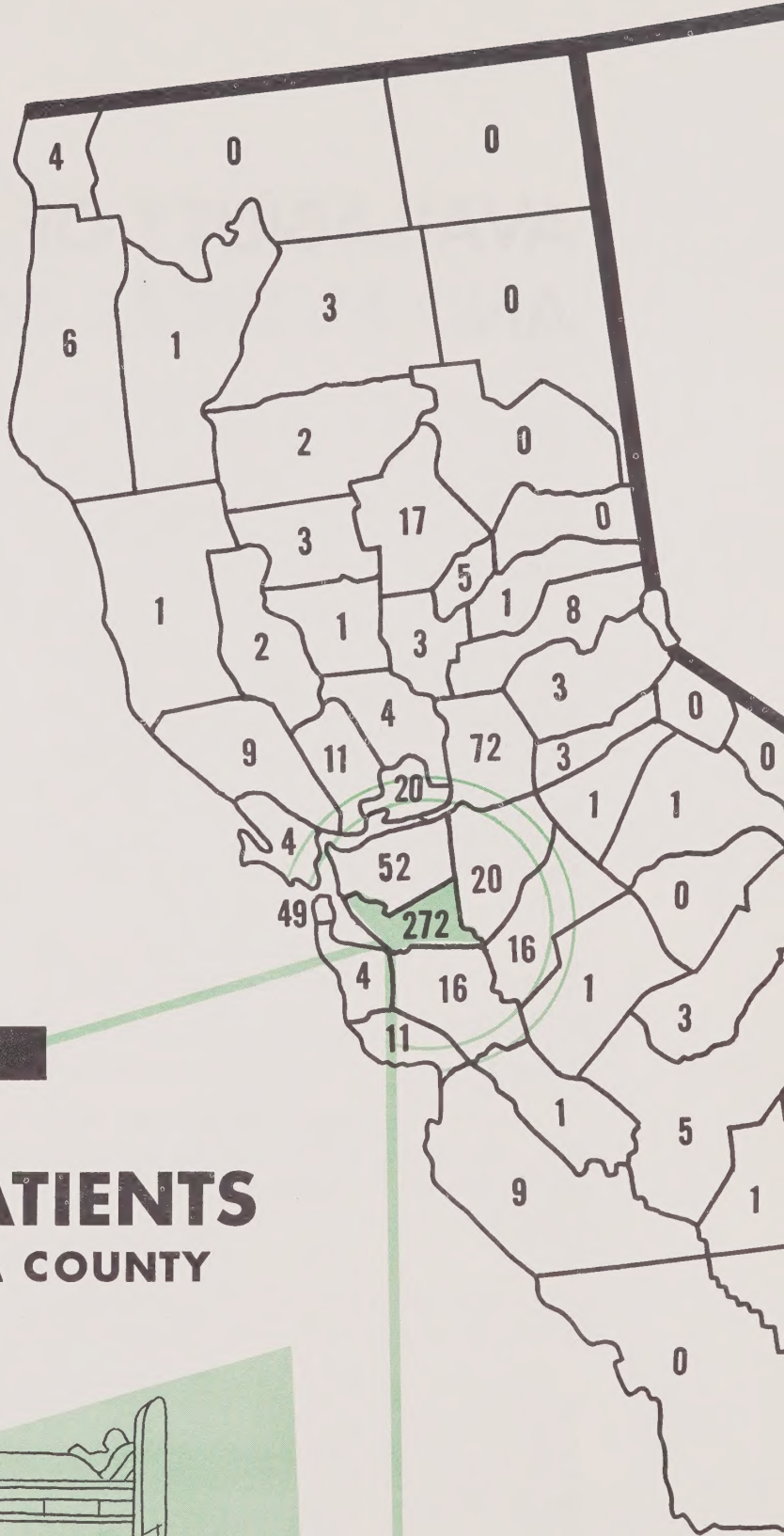
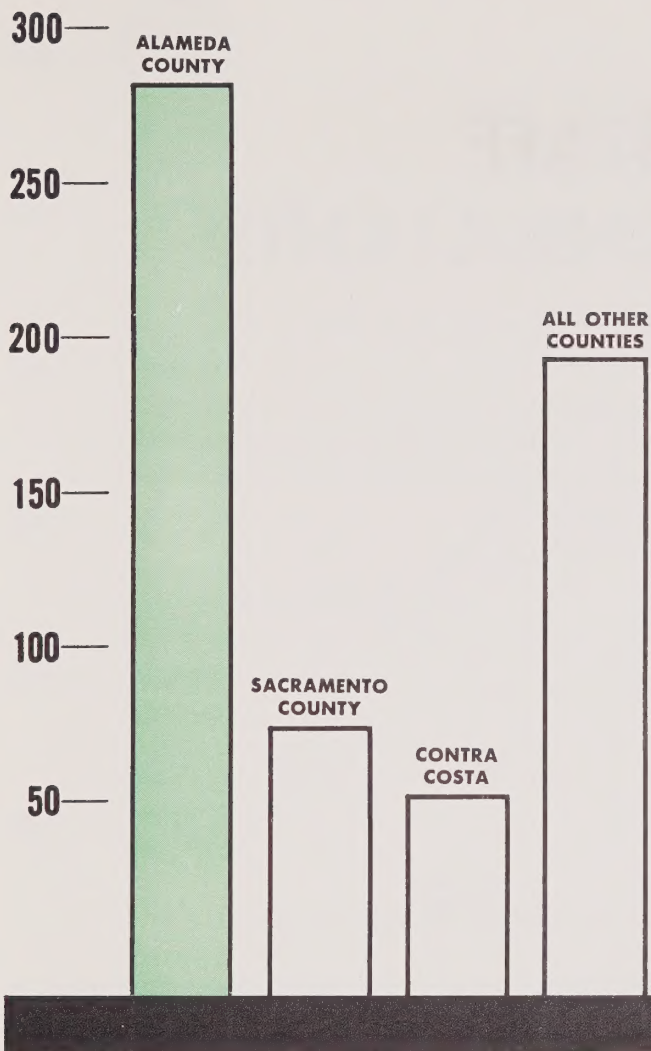
TRANSPORTATION

A major drawback of the Martinez site is its inaccessibility for the patients it would be intended to serve. Martinez is not located on or near any major highways or freeways providing a direct route to serve Alameda County or the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valley areas.

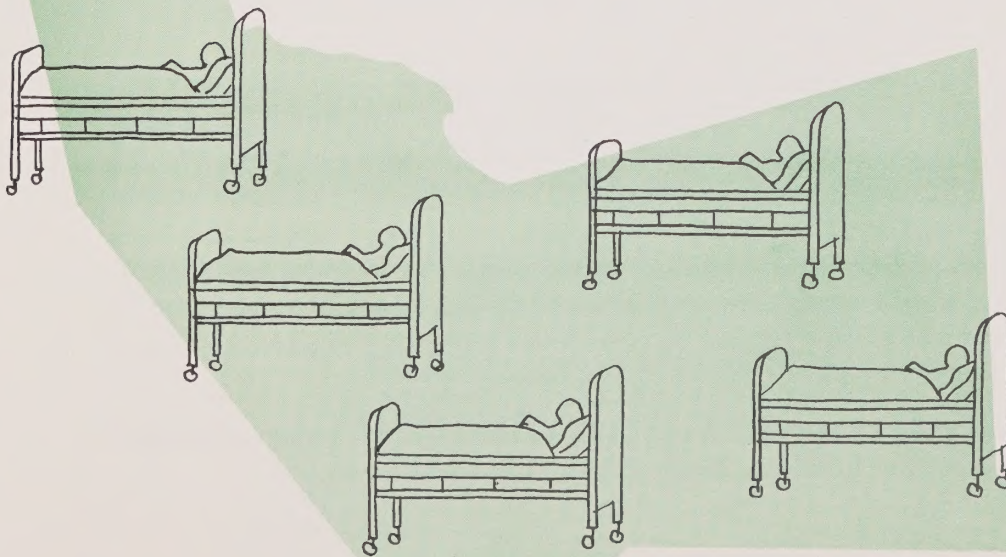
Costs of transportation to Martinez for patients or their families would be nearly prohibitive. For the majority of patients, the one-way transportation cost (from Oakland to Martinez) would be: Train, \$1.05; Bus, \$.82; Ambulance, \$43.00; Automobile, 26 miles at 8.2¢ per mile, \$2.13. Transportation from other counties would be proportionately higher.

At Martinez itself, no bus or streetcar service is available to the hospital site, a distance in excess of two miles. Taxicab costs would be an additional \$1.00 or more each way, since it would not be feasible for patients to walk.

MARTINEZ IS NOT THE BEST OR LOGICAL LOCATION FOR A VA HOSPITAL!



272 PATIENTS ALAMEDA COUNTY



**PATIENT LOAD
BY COUNTIES**
March 10, 1960
OAKLAND VA HOSPITAL

AVAILABILITY OF STAFF AND MEDICAL CONSULTANTS

The very heart of a good hospital is a trained and competent staff. The present Oakland VA Hospital staff is experienced and qualified.

The vast majority of this staff maintains residence near the present hospital, in Oakland, Berkeley and elsewhere in Alameda County; in Richmond, El Cerrito and San Francisco—areas more accessible to Oakland than to Martinez. Only 19 out of a total staff of 770 reside in Contra Costa areas close to Martinez.

PERSONNEL RESIDENCE BY COUNTY AND CITY:

ALAMEDA COUNTY . . .	627	CONTRA COSTA . . .	112	SAN FRANCISCO, ETC.	31
Oakland . . .	308	Richmond . .	77		
Berkeley . . .	154	El Cerrito . .	16		
Albany	17	Orinda	6		
San Leandro . .	77	Concord . . .	7		
San Lorenzo . .	15	Lafayette . . .	6		
Castro Valley .	16	Martinez . . .	0		
Hayward	40				

The earnings of these valuable, non-professional personnel clearly indicate that few, if any, could afford to commute to Martinez.

Some 470 employees earn less than \$5500 per year; 238 employees earn less than \$4500 per year; 6 employees earn less than \$3500 per year.

Limited housing facilities in the Martinez area, and economic and social barriers and restrictions, would severely hamper establishment of new residences in the area by staff members. It is obvious that the majority of trained personnel would be forced to leave government service.

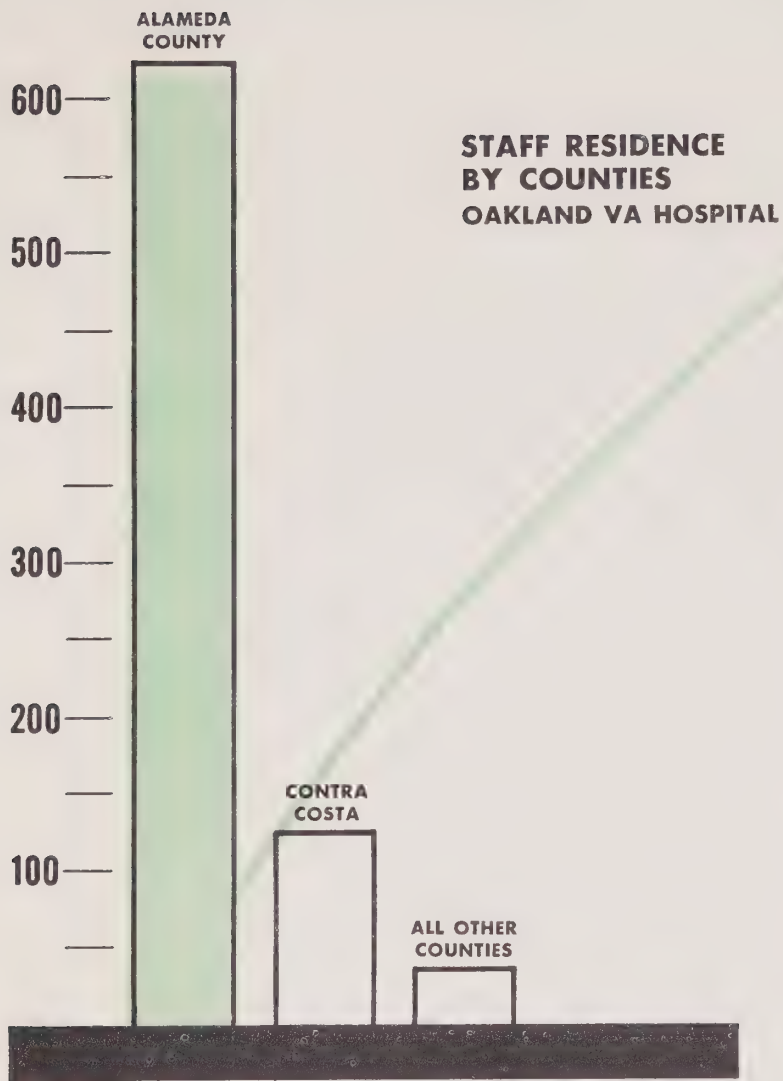
MEDICAL CONSULTANTS

It has been claimed that the Martinez area can meet minimum requirements for adequate surgical and medical consultants.

The Metropolitan Oakland area, with its vast medical centers and 17 hospitals, has the finest specialists in the nation, including 646 physicians and surgeons and 367 dentists in Oakland alone. Few of these specialists can afford or will take the time to travel to Martinez, nearly a two-hour round trip. This is especially true under the authorized fee schedules.

Representatives of the Medical Advisory Committee, and the Medical Association for both Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, have warned that a VA Hospital in Martinez would cause the loss of perhaps half the present list of vitally-important consultants.

"Minimum" requirements for medical care is NOT ENOUGH — such a hospital deserves to have only the finest available medical staff and consultants.



ALL OTHER COUNTIES

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

ALAMEDA COUNTY

JOSEPH F. SADUSK, JR., M. D.
411 30TH STREET
OAKLAND 9, CALIFORNIA
GLENCOURT 2-4615

STATEMENT OF MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
OAKLAND VETERANS ADMINISTRATION HOSPITAL

By Joseph F. Sadusk, Jr., M.D.
Chairman, Medical Advisory Committee

This statement is made to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors for the Medical Advisory Committee of the Oakland Veterans Administration Hospital. This committee consists of Doctor Paul Samson of Oakland, Doctor Walter F. Schaller of San Francisco, and myself as chairman. All three of us are Senior Consultants to the Oakland V.A. Hospital and have been appointed by the Veterans Administration to serve as the Medical Advisory Committee for that hospital. This committee is responsible to the Manager and the Director of Professional Services of that hospital for local policy regarding the standard of professional care rendered to veterans.

This statement is made in behalf of veterans who receive care in the Oakland Veterans Administration Hospital, is non-partisan in nature, and is one in which the health and welfare of our veterans is at stake. I should make it clear that this presentation has not been cleared with the Veterans Administration, either at local, area or national level. This statement represents solely the opinion of the Medical Advisory Committee.

Several years ago a decision was made to relocate the Oakland Veterans Administration Hospital from Oakland to Martinez, a small town in Contra Costa County approximately twenty-five miles away from major medical facilities and the majority of consulting physicians. These consultants come primarily from Oakland, Berkeley, San Francisco and Palo Alto. The decision to relocate the hospital was allegedly reached on the basis of civil defense needs, and while the members of our committee were perturbed, we did not believe that it could be challenged at that time because of these civil defense needs. At the present time, however, we understand that removal of such hospitals from metropolitan areas is not considered necessary or desirable for civil defense.

During the past fourteen years, the Oakland Veterans Administration Hospital has taken its place among the highest ranking Veterans Hospitals in the United States. In addition, a Residency Training Program has been initiated and is now carried out in practically all of the major departments of the hospital. As a result, an exceedingly high standard of professional care has been rendered to our veterans. Much of this is due to the assistance and guidance from the consulting staff.

It is the considered opinion of the Medical Advisory Committee that this proposed relocation of the hospital to Martinez will have a deleterious effect on the care given our veterans since many of the consulting and attending physicians may find it necessary to sever their connections with the hospital because of the considerably increased travel time necessary

to get from San Francisco, Palo Alto, Oakland and Berkeley to Martinez. It would be a tragedy were such excellent care to lapse because of the absence of these consulting physicians.

We now have approximately 89 attending and consulting physicians, of which 32 come from the San Francisco-Palo Alto area, 53 from Oakland, Berkeley or South Alameda County, and only four have their offices in Contra Costa County or in the vicinity of Martinez.

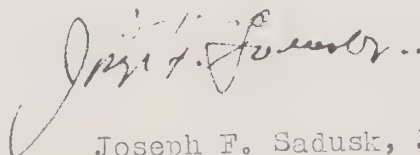
A survey at the end of last year by the Alameda-Contra Costa Medical Association revealed that of those consultants responding to a questionnaire (83%), 55 preferred to remain at the present or a similar Oakland-Berkeley location, 12 had no preference or had two or more choices, and only 7 preferred Martinez.

All of these points led the Medical Advisory Committee of the Oakland Veterans Hospital at a meeting during the summer of 1959 to formally express concern over the proposed Martinez site. As Chairman of the Medical Advisory Committee, I was directed at that time to take such steps as might be considered as desirable to seek reconsideration of this move. In August of 1959, I made representation to Senators Clair Engle and Thomas Kuchel. We were unsuccessful.

Consequently, the Medical Advisory Committee at this time again submits its request to ask the Alameda County Board of Supervisors to put our plea before Congress, in seeking reconsideration of the relocation of the Oakland Veterans Administration Hospital to Martinez. As I have stated above, it would be a tragedy were the medical care of our veterans to suffer because of an impairment of the Medical Consulting Program. Without such stimulation and guidance, medical care might well return to a domiciliary basis in this hospital.

While the Medical Advisory Committee does not consider it necessarily proper to recommend specific sites, it is clear that the site of a new Oakland Veterans Administration Hospital should be within ready access to the majority of consultants for the East Bay area and San Francisco. This means that the hospital should be located in Oakland or Berkeley. In our own opinion, serious consideration should be given to relocating the hospital West of Telegraph Avenue in the vicinity of Peralta, Merritt and Providence Hospitals. Here is where the majority of consultants are located, and with the approximately 700-800 beds on the so-called "Medical Hill" and with the stimulation by the Oakland City Planning Commission, great hope is held for a major medical center. The property West of Telegraph Avenue in the vicinity of 29th and 30th Streets is of relatively low cost value and it would be most ideal to consider location of the Oakland Veterans Administration Hospital in that area.

If it is impossible to secure locations in the vicinity of Oakland-Berkeley, it would be far better for the good of our veterans to permit the Oakland Veterans Hospital to remain at its present location.



Joseph F. Sadusk, Jr., M.D.

PATIENT LOAD, RESIDENCE STATISTICS

AVERAGE DAILY PATIENT LOAD:

January, 1960	653
Fiscal Year 1959	643
First Half Fiscal Year 1959	642
January, 1959	661
February	652
March	640
April	640
May	636
June	636
Average Number on Seriously Ill List . . .	65

ADMISSIONS:

January, 1960	502
(Alameda County, 209; 41.63% of total)	
(Contra Costa, 46; 9.16% of total)	

ADMISSIONS, LAST QUARTER F.Y. 1959:

April, 1959	528
May	498
June	519

PATIENT RESIDENCE BY COUNTIES

Alameda	272	Placer	8
Alpine	0	Plumas	0
Amador	3	Riverside	0
Butte	17	Sacramento	72
Calaveras	1	San Benito	1
Colusa	1	San Bernardino	0
Contra Costa	52	San Diego	0
Del Norte	4	San Francisco	49
El Dorado	3	San Joaquin	20
Fresno	5	San Luis Obispo	0
Glenn	3	San Mateo	4
Humboldt	6	Santa Barbara	0
Imperial	0	Santa Clara	16
Inyo	1	Santa Cruz	11
Kern	0	Shasta	3
Kings	1	Sierra	0
Lake	2	Siskiyou	0
Lassen	0	Solano	20
Los Angeles	3	Sonoma	9
Madera	3	Stanislaus	16
Marin	4	Sutter	3
Mariposa	0	Tehama	2
Mendocino	1	Trinity	1
Merced	1	Tulare	2
Modoc	0	Tuolumne	1
Mono	0	Ventura	0
Monterey	9	Yolo	4
Napa	11	Yuba	5
Nevada	1	Other States	14
Orange	0	(City of Oakland	157)

March 10, 1960 TOTAL 665



ALAMEDA-CONTRA COSTA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

6230 CLAREMONT AVENUE • OAKLAND 18, CALIFORNIA • TELEPHONE OLYMPIC 4-5383

Statement of David J. Dugan, M.D., Vice-President

In May 1959, Dr. Hardin B. Jones and Mr. Michael Goodman in a letter to the Council of the Alameda-Contra Costa Medical Association called attention to facts concerning the proposed relocation of the Oakland Veterans Administration Hospital to Martinez. They pointed out that the requirement by the Department of Defense that the hospital be built in a non-target area had been removed, and they felt that the best interest of the veteran and the greater East Bay Area would be served by maintaining the hospital in a metropolitan area close to the University of California. They asked the Council of the Alameda-Contra Costa Medical Association to consider this view and endorse it.

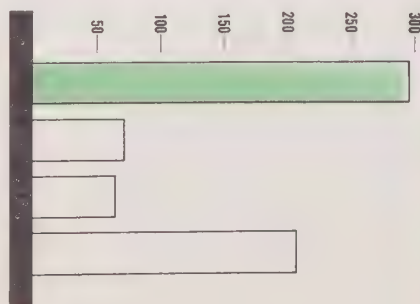
The Council of the Medical Association felt that its only legitimate role in this matter was to determine what course of action would be most likely to provide the highest quality of medical care to the veteran patient. Two conclusions were arrived at by the committee appointed by the Medical Association Council to study this matter:

1. A wider variety of medical skills, in greater abundance, will be more readily and frequently available to the veteran patient if the hospital remains in the metropolitan area.
2. Ninety-nine doctors presently serving as Veterans Administration consultants were polled as to their preference in the location of the hospital. These doctors are in private practice in Oakland, Berkeley, San Francisco and Contra Costa County. Seventy-four replied, of whom fifty-five stated that they preferred the metropolitan area, seven stated they preferred the Martinez location, and twelve stated they had no choice.

David J. Dugan, M.D.



ALAMEDA COUNTY
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
SACRAMENTO COUNTY
ALL OTHER COUNTIES



County to Fight VA Hospital Move

An intensified campaign to try to keep the Veterans Administration Hospital in Oakland has been undertaken by the Board of Supervisors.

The supervisors yesterday indicated they would send another delegation to Washington later this month to fight the plan that would shift the hospital to Martinez.

Several veterans, civic and medical leaders testified before the supervisors yesterday urging a crash program to offset the proposed Martinez move.

Hearings before the Veterans Affairs Committee in Washington already are in progress.

LAND PURCHASED

The government has purchased land in Martinez and has indicated the decision is final.

But the officials testifying yesterday held hope that an effective campaign could bring about a change.

Dr. David F. Dugan, speaking on behalf of the Alameda-Contra Costa Medical Association, said the Martinez move would cut the number of medical consultants by 50 percent and would mean fewer skilled physicians and surgeons available to the veterans.

Dr. Joseph F. Sadusk Jr., member of the Medical Advisory Committee of the Veterans Hospital, echoed statements of Dr. Dugan, said a new medical site in Oakland would be ideal for VA Hospital.

HAYWARD, March 25—The city council officials may put in a pitch to have the Veterans Administration Hospital relocated in the city rather than Martinez. The proposal was introduced by Councilman Dr. Michael Sheridan, who declared Hayward would be an ideal site. Sheridan urged the city planning department make a study as to a possible site in the city for the hospital.

Meanwhile the city council endorsed a resolution urging the Veterans Administration and Congress not to remove the hospital from Alameda County to Contra Costa County as planned.

ideal location from the standpoint of obtaining top medical services.

Col. Charles Herrick, Oakland's postmaster and a former VA hospital administrator here, said the present hospital on 13th St. in Oakland was made available for \$700 a bed. He said the new Martinez venture would cost some \$30,000 a bed to build.

He said a survey of patients in January showed that 41 percent of the veterans come from Alameda County and only 9 percent from Contra Costa.

SMALLER CAPACITY

The present hospital, formerly the Hotel Oakland, has a capacity of 602 beds while proposed Martinez institution would have 510, Herrick said.

Berkeley Urges Restudy of VA Hospital

BERKELEY, March 25—The city council today went on record as favoring a restudy of the proposed location of the Veterans Administration Hospital in Martinez.

Dr. Hardin Jones, associate director of the University of California's Donner Laboratory, spokesman for a group of doctors, told the council the move would be more reasonable than having the hospital near the campus here.

Dr. Jones pointed out there is a large group of experienced and competent medical personnel available in the campus that could be utilized at the proposed hospital.

just because we haven't put it into retaining the hospital, Strutz said today.

DELEGATIONS

The Alameda County Supervisors has taken action against moving the hospital. It will send a delegation to testify before the Veterans Affairs Committee in Washington next month.

Several veterans, civic and medical leaders yesterday urged

County Seeks Review on Vets Hospital

The Board of Supervisors today passed a resolution urging the Federal Government to reconsider its decision to build a new Veterans Administration Hospital in Martinez rather than in Alameda County.

The board argued that an Alameda County site would be more convenient to veterans—disabled and otherwise—and would be closer to such research and medical facilities as the University of California and Oakland's hospital complex.

At the same time the resolution authorized the creation of a seven-man committee to go to Washington D.C. Thursday when the House Appropriations Committee makes the formal confirmation of the Martinez site.

Among those who will appear in Washington Thursday will be Supervisors Dunn and Kent Pursel; Vice Admiral Murray Royer (ret.) representing

Editorials

Fifty Mile Ride for

NEXT TUESDAY the board of supervisors will hold a public hearing on the Veterans Administration proposal to relocate the Oakland VA hospital at Martinez. Although purely local in character, we hope the hearing will produce a sound volume that will stretch to Washington with persuasive effect. The Appropriations Committee of the House of Representatives will be conducting its own hearings there next month on the proposal.

Present plans call for the expenditure of \$16 million to build the new 510 bed facility at Martinez. Meanwhile, 50 miles distant from Martinez, the 750 bed hospital at deactivated Parks Air Force Base near Pleasanton goes begging for use. It could be put back into full service at a fraction of what it would cost to construct and equip the new plant.

Oakland Joins Fight

City Council Backs Committee Which Will Go to Washington To Oppose Contra Costa Site

The Oakland City Council has thrown its support to a seven-man committee which will go to Washington tomorrow to fight the selection of Martinez as the site for a new Veterans Administration Hospital. The council followed the lead of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors last night in a unanimous vote.

Berkeley Urges Join Hospital

BERKELEY, Feb. 25—The city planning commission today urged that Berkeley join the fight to keep the Veterans Administration Hospital in Alameda County.

The commission last night recommended that the city council join in a restudy of the location of the VA's Oakland hospital, which has been scheduled for transfer to Martinez.

A commission resolution called on the council to get into the site search, underscoring the possibility of locating the hospital in Berkeley. Board members offered to initiate site studies if asked.

Michael Goodman, commissioner, and Dr. Hardin Jones, an assistant director of the Donner Laboratory at U.C., advanced arguments why the hospital should be in an area accessible to the university.

Without specifying a locale, the commission said the relocation of the hospital from the East Bay to the Martinez location.

Ever since the Martinez site was proposed, the conviction has grown that the VA is taking taxpayers on a \$16 million ride. No explanation has been advanced to justify the proposal. Tuesday's hearing should bring full voiced demand that the VA abandon a plan that would involve a potential hazard to veterans and a demonstrable disadvantage to taxpayers.

ALAMEDA COUNTY

. . . IDEAL LOCATION

Alameda County, the heart of the patient load and the veteran population, offers many ideal sites for the relocation of the present Oakland VA Hospital.

A crossroads for rail and bus transportation, interurban bus and train lines, and major highways and freeways serving the Bay Area and the central valleys, Alameda County is readily accessible to all Northern California veterans, in the most economical manner.

Major hospitals and medical centers provide a vast pool of skilled medical and surgical consultants, so important to the proper functioning of a VA Hospital. The majority of present VA Hospital personnel reside in Alameda County.

The University of California has offered the VA full cooperation — a location near the University would be in keeping with the VA's established policy of constructing hospitals near great centers of medical science. The construction of a new N.P. facility adjacent to Stanford University, at Palo Alto, is but one example.

Savings for the taxpayers in ambulance costs, beneficiary travel, supplies and services — and even in original construction — would result from selection of a metropolitan site in Alameda County.

Prior to the Martinez decision, the VA-owned land adjacent to the present Hospital was recommended by responsible VA personnel as the site for new construction, with the present building to be later utilized for administration, rehabilitation and other purposes. Even at this date, it would be economically-sound to utilize this site.

Numerous other excellent locations are available in Alameda County, and city and county governments have offered full cooperation toward development of a metropolitan location. The county's Chambers of Commerce, civic and veterans' groups strongly urge and stand ready to assist in the location of a metropolitan site.

Ample accommodations for families of patients are available at reasonable cost in Alameda County — a fact which does not apply to the Martinez site.



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

DONNER LABORATORY AND DONNER PAVILION
BERKELEY 4, CALIFORNIA


I write to express the opinion of a group of scientists who recognize important, unique advantages in relocating the Oakland Veterans Administration Hospital so that it is proximal to the Berkeley Campus of the University of California. At appropriate times during the past four years leaders in science, medicine, education, and public administration invited the Veterans Administrators to explore the advantages to be gained in such an association with the University of California.

The policy of collaboration between veterans hospitals and universities originated at the end of World War II. Many such arrangements have been created. This policy and the policy of appointing advisors and consultants from the mainstream of talent in medicine is a key provision for attaining high standards of medical care for veterans.

Universities have been eager to participate in these joint programs because their centers of medical science increasingly need association with clinical problems. And, there is the important fact that universities can no longer afford, within their own resources, to create and maintain these costly clinical facilities. In California, especially, because of rapid population expansion there will be correspondingly increased needs for education, training and research in the medical sciences. Some of this need can only be provided by joint planning between universities and clinical centers such as the Oakland Veterans Administration Hospital. For the Berkeley Campus this present opportunity may never again be matched. The placement of this hospital near the University of California would enhance medical care for veterans; over the years it would increase resources in education and science; and it would do all of this at a significant saving of tax derived funds. That is to say, it allows one public expenditure to fulfill multiple public needs.

A related fact is that public buildings, and especially hospitals, ought to have shelters designed into their construction. In this instance, the basement floors of the veterans hospital could be built to defense specifications. If it is never used as a shelter, it would have had first rate use as a functional part of the hospital. I am appending an excerpt from a recent letter to this point by Edward Teller, one of the most informed persons in defense planning.

It is instructive to state that the Veterans Administration is just now completing a 1,000 bed hospital proximal to the new Stanford University Medical Center at Palo Alto. An equivalent, elegant plan is needed for the East Bay.



Hardin B. Jones
Assistant Director;
Professor of Medical Physics
and Physiology

THE AMERICAN LEGION

TENTH DISTRICT — DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

WHEREAS, the replacement of the Oakland Veterans Administration Hospital has been authorized by the Congress of the United States, and

WHEREAS, the primary needs for the location and maintenance of a General Medical and Surgical Hospital are dependent upon various needs, and

WHEREAS, the existing primary operational needs are:

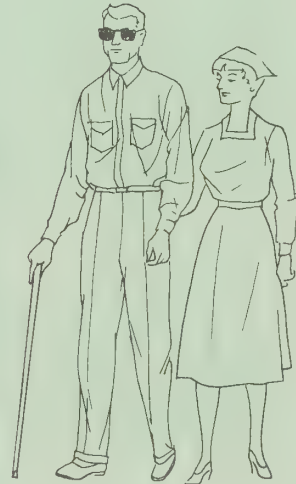
1. Proper transportation for patients, dependents, and staff employees;
2. Availability to an adequate labor pool hospital staffing;
3. Proximity to existing Medical Centers to insure proper consultations;
4. Availability of necessary utilities;
5. Utilization of organized veterans groups for the many needed functions, and

WHEREAS, primary economic need consists of utilization of existing government property,

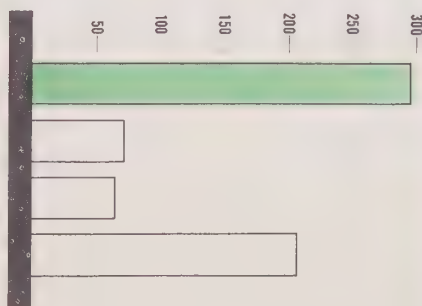
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 10th District Council, The American Legion, Department of California, go on record as recommending the site of government-owned property adjacent to the Oakland Naval Hospital, San Leandro Hospital as the proposed site for a Regional General Hospital to replace the existing Oakland Veterans' Administration Regional Hospital.

This resolution was unanimously passed by the assembled delegates at our regular meeting on September 19, 1956.

Julius R. Lansberry
JULIUS R. LANSBERRY
Adjutant



ALAMEDA COUNTY
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
SACRAMENTO COUNTY
ALL OTHER COUNTIES



WM. G. DWYER, DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

JOHN B. ENGBERG
GENERAL CHAIRMAN

CHARLES J. GARDNER
CO-CHAIRMAN



MILDRED TAYLOR, COMMANDER
DEPARTMENT AUXILIARY

GLORIA CARPENTER
AUXILIARY CHAIRMAN

HARRIET P. ENGBERG
COORDINATOR

38th ANNUAL DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

RESOLUTION O.K. 938 A

WHEREAS: The Oakland Veterans Administration Hospital was originally constructed in 1910 as a hotel and operated as such until the United States Army took it over in 1941 as a GM & S Hospital and has been in such operation continuously without being remodeled for adequate hospital requirements of the modern day mode, and;

WHEREAS: This building was originally constructed on the old fashion type of larger high ceiling rooms, meaning there are no reasonably sized wards, most rooms containing two and three beds, some few rooms containing four and five beds. The plumbing and electric wiring are inadequate for demands necessary for the operation of an 800 bed hospital due to age and danger of pipes bursting and dangers of electrical overloading. The three elevators are inadequate to handle beds in them or more than one gurney at a single trip, in case of evacuation for fire or other disastrous causes. The four major surgical suites are converted sample rooms that are inadequate to handle the surgical work load in an active GM & S Hospital, such as this one. The air conditioning in these suites is ancient in design and type, insufficient in operation, and;

WHEREAS: it is necessary to have a staff of 800 employees working under hardships of many difficulties to take care of the 661 patients in this hospital, and whereas it would be physically impossible to convert this structure into an economical modern hospital without a cost of approximately \$10,000,000 and when completed, if so done, would still be inadequate for increased needs. and;

WHEREAS, it is vitally important that a hospital of this 800 bed size and GM&S stype where there are many advantages, that is transportation for patients, personnel, visitors and economical delivery of supplies and maintaining a special list such as consultants and attending physicians, the already established adequate fire protection be maintained in the present locality of the hospital, and whereas should this hospital be moved or re-established in an outlying territory it would mean loss of personnel, creating quite a problem, the loss of consultant and attending physician service, the loss of volunteer services such as nurses aides, etc., the increased cost of supply deliveries and added cost of building, equipment and maintenance of adequate fire protection, and;

WHEREAS, the government now owns and adjoining lot surrounding by 14th and Alice, 13th and Jackson streets of approximately 60,000 square feet where an addition of a modern hospital wing could be added that would take care of up to an 800 patients and could be connected to the older building by an overpass or underground corridor on the Alice Street side and the older building, or present hospital at a nominal fee, could be used or re-converted to handle administrative officers, over-all facilities, etc.,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by Oakland Chapter 7, DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS that the National and Department Legislative bodies, our Congressmen and Senators of the State of California, the Veterans Administration, all legislative committees dealing with budgets and appropriations regarding veterans affairs, be requested to give full consideration to this request for an additional wing to be built or constructed as set forth in this resolution, AND THAT NO SUBSTITUTE LOCATION BE CONSIDERED BY THEM BECAUSE THE PRESENT LOCATION AS DESCRIBED IN THE FOREGOING WILL PROVIDE ADEQUATE SERVICE TO NOT ONLY THE DENSE VETERAN POPULATION located in the vicinity of this present hospital site but also to eligible veteran patients in the northern half of the State of California.

RESOLUTION PASSED AND ADOPTED JUNE 28, 1959

John B. Engberg
John B. Engberg

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

OF THE UNITED STATES
Founded 1899



WHEREAS: the replacement of the Oakland Veterans' Administration Hospital has been authorized by the Congress of the United States, and

WHEREAS: The primary needs for the location and maintenance of a general medical and surgical hospital is dependent upon various requirements, and

WHEREAS: the existing primary requirements are:

1. Promimity to existing Medical Centers to insure proper consultation;
2. Availability to an adequate labor pool for hospital staffing;
3. Proper transportation for patients, staff employees and dependents;
4. Availability of necessary utilities;
5. Utilization of organized Veteran and Welfare groups for the adjunct needs and functions, and

WHEREAS: primary economic needs require utilization of existing Government owned property,

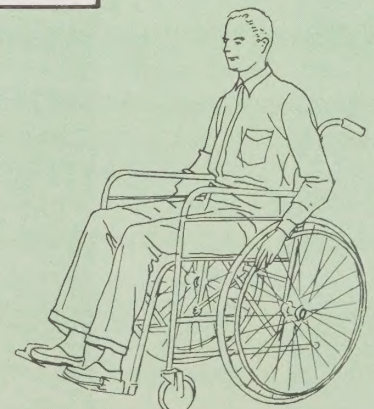
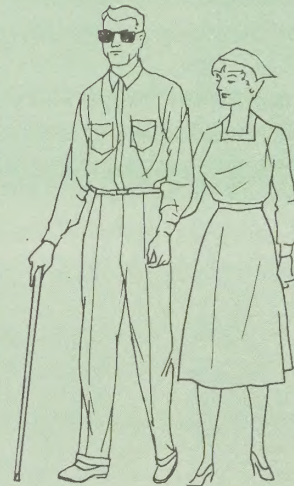
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alameda County Council, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, recommends and advocates the site known as the San Leandro Naval Hospital property, adjacent to the Oakland Naval Hospital or Oak Knoll area, as the proper and ideal location for the replacement of the existing Oakland Veterans Administration Hospital.

Presented and adopted at a regular meeting of the Alameda County Council Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, held in Oakland, California, January 23, 1957.

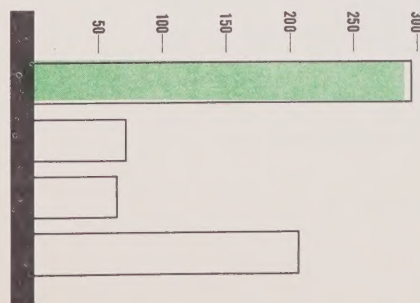
Attest

William W. Vidler
William W. Vidler
Adjutant

Ralph W. Beemer
Ralph W. Beemer
Commander



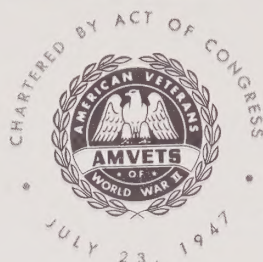
ALAMEDA COUNTY
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
SACRAMENTO COUNTY
ALL OTHER COUNTIES



AMVETS

DEPARTMENT OF

CALIFORNIA



ARTHUR B. GEEN
DEPARTMENT COMMANDER
EDWARD B. CURRIGAN
DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT
HARRY M. LEHRFELD
FINANCE OFFICER

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Veterans Administration proposes to re-locate the existing Oakland VA Hospital to a new site at Martinez, in Contra Costa County, and

WHEREAS, such a location would not adequately serve the veteran population the hospital is intended to serve, and

WHEREAS, three-quarters of the staff and more than half of the patients reside in Oakland and Alameda County, and Martinez would not be accessible for staff members, patients, or the medical consultants, because of distance and lack of transportation, and

WHEREAS, Martinez is located in the center of oil refineries, arsenals and ammunition dumps, powder factories and a naval shipyard, and would not be a safe or healthful location, now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by AMVETS DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA, in State Executive Session at Tulare, California, April 7, 1957 that we go on record opposing the Martinez site, and that we reaffirm our previous recommendation that the hospital be relocated in Oakland or Alameda County.

Adopted

Attest:

E. B. Currigan

Edward B. Currigan
Department Adjutant



C123313424

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. _____ C. M. S.

RESOLUTION URGING LOCATION OF PROPOSED
VETERANS ADMINISTRATION HOSPITAL IN
THE CITY OF OAKLAND, OR IN ALAMEDA COUNTY

WHEREAS, the Appropriations Committee of the House of Representatives soon will conduct hearings upon the proposal of the Veterans Administration to locate the Oakland Veterans Administration Hospital near the City of Martinez in the County of Contra Costa; and

WHEREAS, the only objection to the retention of the hospital facility in the City of Oakland, to-wit, dispersal, has since been removed by the Federal Civilian Defense Administration; and

WHEREAS, the proposed site near the City of Martinez in the County of Contra Costa is too far removed from the population center of the area to be served by it; is distant from the professional and technical medical personnel of the Bay Area; and is many miles from other medical institutions, facilities, and consultants which will be associated with the proposed hospital; and

WHEREAS, said proposed Martinez site is far removed from the area from which adequate personnel and staff can be obtained and in which a majority of the patients and their families reside, and would therefore result in a financial hardship upon them; and

WHEREAS, there are several locations in the City of Oakland, and in the County of Alameda, ideally situated for such an establishment with reference to transportation, access by both patients and personnel and availability of all utilities; that at least one such site is already owned by the Veterans Administration; and

WHEREAS, a reconsideration of the location of the proposed hospital from a site near Martinez to one within the City of Oakland, or the County of Alameda, will not adversely affect those veteran patients presently served by the facilities located within Oakland; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That for the reasons hereinabove set forth the Council of the City of Oakland hereby urges the Veterans Administration and the Appropriations Committee of the House of Representatives to reconsider their decision to locate said hospital near the City of Martinez in Contra Costa County; and to select a site for such facility within the City of Oakland, or within the County of Alameda.

I certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct
copy of a Resolution passed by the City Council of the
City of Oakland, Calif., on _____ MAR 10 1960

Per Leda Darby GLADYS H. MURPHY, City Clerk
Deputy

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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

